

**Table 4. Curricula of three PTA education programs**

<b>PTA program (in Florida)</b>	<b>PTA program (in California)</b>	<b>PTA program (in New York)</b>
<b>Required coursework</b> Basic Patient Care Disabilities and Therapeutic Procedures Functional Anatomy and Kinesiology Neurological Disabilities and Treatment Orthopedic Disabilities and Treatment Physical Therapy Clinical Practice I, II, III Physical Therapy Principles and Procedures Physical Therapy, Intro Therapeutic Exercise in Physical Therapy Trends in Physical Therapy	<b>Required coursework</b> Clinical Practice, Intro Clinical Practicum I, II Communication for Allied Health Careers Disorders I- Selected Disorders Commonly Seen in Physical Therapy Disorders II - Nervous System Disorders Functional Activities and Gait - Activities of Daily Living and Gait Training Kinesiology for PTA students, with Lab Modalities and Treatment Procedures, Beginning Modalities and Treatment Procedures, Intermed Modalities and Treatment Procedures, Advanced Physical Therapist Assistant, Intro Professional Ethics of Health Team Members Therapeutic Exercise - Exercise Programs, Protocols and Procedures	<b>Required coursework</b> Concepts of Physical Wellness Contemporary Practice for the PTA CPR First Aid and Safety Intro to Rehabilitation Kinesiology Medical Conditions for the PTA Physical Therapist Assisting I, II, III, IV Physical Therapy, Intro  <b>Suggested elective courses</b> Computer courses Exercise Physiology Fundamentals of Speech Communications or Statistics Nutrition
<b>General education</b> Algebra, College level English Composition Human Anatomy and Physiology I, II Human Growth and Development Humanities course Physics for Liberal Arts	<b>General education</b> Analytical and Speed Reading, college level Biology 25 Anatomy/Physiology Biology 26 Anatomy/Physiology English Composition, college level Family and consumer science Psychology/Human development Sociology	<b>General education</b> Algebra, Elementary level or higher Anatomy and Physiology I, II Developmental Psychology English, Freshman level General Psychology I Physical education Technical writing module
<b>Clinical field experience</b> First semester: 4 weeks, full-time Second semester: 5 weeks, full-time Third semester: 6 weeks, full-time	<b>Clinical field experience</b> Three 6-week affiliations with a clinic	<b>Clinical field experience</b> First semester: 2 days a week Second semester: 2 days a week Third semester: 6 weeks full-time working under a PT

Note: PT is physical therapist; PTA is physical therapist assistant. All PTA programs are Associate's degree programs.

Source: Urban Institute summary of education programs' curricula.